

REMARKS

Applicants elect the claims of Group I, i.e., claims 1-6 and 17. Applicants introduce new claims 18-21 herewith. Applicants submit that the new claims correspond to the subject matter of Group I, and should be substantively considered herewith. Those new claims are directed to the bone system model of claim 1, and further constitute those wherein certain modifications of the bone system have been deliberately implemented in order to more effectively use these as models of various pathologies. Accordingly, no additional burden is imposed and the search should be substantially the same. If, however, the Examiner determines that such claims are not within the subject matter as identified within Group I, Applicants expressly reserve the right to rejoinder of such claims once allowable subject matter is found.

Applicants explicitly reserve the right to apply for rejoinder of method claims (Group II, claims 7-9, drawn to the method of detecting a matrix for reconstituting a bone system model, Group III, claims 10 and 16, drawn to the method of detecting a matrix and a test for tumor cell aggressiveness) using the bone system model of Group I.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of all outstanding rejections. Applicants submit that the claims are now in condition for allowance, and respectfully request formal notification to that effect. If, however, the Examiner perceives any impediments to such a notice of allowability, whether substantive or formal, the Examiner is encouraged to call Applicants' attorney at the number provided below. Such informal communication will expedite examination and disposition of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

Date: July 3, 2008

By:


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